



EDINBURGH TENANTS
FEDERATION

Federation Matters

July 2020

ETF statement on Coronavirus

Edinburgh Tenants Federation (ETF) is pleased to let you know that we continue to operate during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. In line with Scottish Government guidance, the office base is currently closed and staff are working from home but can still be contacted in the usual ways – by email to info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or by phoning 0131 475 2509 and they will do their best to assist you. ETF's Convenor Betty Stevenson commented, "I am proud of the role that our staff and volunteers continue to play during these uncertain times. While it is frustrating not being able to attend meetings and have a more hands on role, the safety of our staff and volunteers is vitally important. We will continue to keep everyone up to date on ETF's status and hope to see you all at a future event once this crisis is over." At present we are unable to say when staff and service users will be able to return to Norton Park. We will take advice from the Scottish Government and the Albion Trust on this matter.

ETF Work Plan

We are delighted to report that ETF's Executive Committee (EC) has agreed the 2020 - 2021 Work Plan. This very ambitious and exciting document has been prepared to reflect member views from the aims and objectives of our Service Level Agreement with the Council of Edinburgh Council (CEC), the Executive Committee (EC) Members' Survey, CEC's Tenant Participation Strategy and Housing Service Improvement Plan. A summary of the Work Plan was circulated to ETF Member Groups along with this edition of *Federation Matters*. If you would like a copy, please email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509.

Keeping in touch

We may be in lockdown, but EC members and staff have continued to keep in touch during this time, albeit in a different way. For the past few months EC members and staff have been taking part in regular on-line meetings via Zoom. This has allowed us to continue to communicate with CEC officers and keep up to date with the latest developments. ETF is currently looking into the possibility of hosting our Federation Meetings and member events via Zoom. If you have a smartphone, tablet or computer and would like to be able to take part in these meetings or know more, please email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or phone 0131 475 2509. Training and support will be provided to assist you get involved in these new virtual ways.

ETF Blog

For this month's blog, ETF's Development Worker Mark Henry has written about how he has adapted to working from home and coping mechanisms which are helping him during the lockdown. You can view Mark's blog at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/category/guest-bloggers/>. If you are a tenant, employed in the housing sector, enthusiastic about where you live or interested in community development, then why not become a guest blogger? If you're interested in contributing a blog or would like more information, please contact the Federation office on 0131 475 2509 or email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk. Some useful hints and tips for writing blogs can be found at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/draft-blog/>.

Edinburgh Tenants Federation Norton Park 57 Albion Road Edinburgh EH7 5QY

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Edinburgh Tenants Federation is a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) SC048236, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR)

Advance Notice – ETF Annual General Meeting

ETF's Annual General Meeting (AGM) is scheduled to take place on **Friday 27th November 2020, 7.00pm, venue to be confirmed**. We are still at the planning stage in terms of the format of the AGM. Further details of the AGM, including important dates and how to renew your ETF membership will be sent to you in due course. Please bear in mind that any gathering will be subject to the social distancing rules in place on this date and therefore may be held online. Watch this space.

Inspiring Volunteer Awards 2020 Nominations

Do you know an individual or a team within your organisation whose contribution deserves to be recognised? Then why not nominate them for an inspiring Volunteer Award? Organisations are able to nominate up to three individual volunteers and make up to three nominations for the Ian McInnes Award. You can find out more or nominate someone at <https://www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk/nominations-open-2/>. For more information, please contact Jason McCann, Volunteer Edinburgh by phoning 0131 561 8308 or emailing events@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk.

Help available to tackle COVID-19

Social Bite has food parcels made up and ready for delivery to any vulnerable tenants living in Edinburgh who need help. You can find out more at <https://social-bite.co.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>, email info@social-bite.co.uk or phone 0131 353 0250.

Free COVID-19 advice service

A national service providing free advice on tackling COVID-19 in Scotland is currently available. The coronavirusadvice.scot run by the charity Advice Direct Scotland offers practical advice and information on issues including employment, housing and personal finance. The service has been created using cloud technology so that all advisers are working from home and are able to use the organisation's software to answer calls from the public and provide up to date information. It can be contacted on 0808 800 9060 between 9.00am and 5.00pm from Monday to Friday. You can find out more at <https://coronavirusadvice.scot/>.

Diary Dates

Here are some important dates that may be of interest to you. Please pass them onto other members of your organisation.

September 2020

25th September Deadline for submitting constitutional changes / motions for ETF's AGM

November 2020

13th November Deadline for submitting ETF membership applications and EC nominations for ETF's AGM

27th November ETF's AGM, 7.00pm, venue to be confirmed

Contact the Federation office on 0131 475 2509 for more information. Don't forget that *Federation Matters* and other Federation publications can be downloaded from our website at www.edinburghtenants.org.uk. That's all for this month - do get in touch if you need any more information from us about anything mentioned here.

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